United Nations E/2012/L.12

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
13 July 2012

Original: English

Substantive session of 2012
New York, 2-27 July 2012
Agenda item 6 (b)
Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits: review and coordination of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

Algeria:*, draft resolution**

Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2011/9 of 22 July 2011 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 66/213 of 22 December 2011,

Recalling further the Istanbul Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,[2] adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Reaffirming also the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2012 on the theme "Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

** In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

Please recycle

sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011 to 2020;[3]

2. *Recalls* the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and calls for its full and timely implementation, and in this regard, reaffirms the commitment made by the international community to assist the least developed countries to achieve sustainable development, including by fully integrating the priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action into its framework of action and their effective implementation as part of the follow-up and implementation of the outcome of the Conference regarding the least developed countries;

3. *Expresses serious concern* that the ongoing world financial and economic crisis affects the least developed countries in many ways, which are manifested in the sharp decline in the gross domestic product growth rate from 6.6 per cent in the past decade to an estimated 4.9 per cent in 2011, and in this regard, underlines the need for appropriate regional and international support to be deployed in a timely and targeted manner to complement the efforts of the least developed countries aimed at building resilience in the face of economic shocks and mitigating their effects;

4. *Recognizes* that building a critical mass of viable and competitive productive capacity in agriculture, manufacturing and services, constructing efficient infrastructure and ensuring access to affordable and reliable technologies are essential if the least developed countries are to increase their resilience to shocks, maintain inclusive and equitable growth, eradicate poverty and generate full and productive employment and decent work for all;

5. *Notes* the efforts made by the least developed countries towards full employment and decent work for all, and expresses its concern that, despite considerable efforts, they are yet to generate a sufficient number of decent jobs for their growing working-age populations, primarily because of limited structural change aimed at high-productivity sectors, and in this regard, calls upon the development partners to provide enhanced financial and technical support to the least developed countries to develop productive capacities, achieve structural transformation and generate full and productive employment and decent work for all;

6. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, with the support of their development partners, to fulfil their commitments and to promote implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including by integrating its provisions into their national policies and development frameworks and conducting regular reviews with the full involvement of all key stakeholders, and in this regard, invites the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, including the United Nations regional and functional commissions, the United Nations resident coordinator system and the United

[3] A/67/88-E/2012/75.

Nations country teams, to actively support the integration and the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

7. *Calls upon* the development partners to integrate the Istanbul Programme of Action into their respective national cooperation policy frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure enhanced, predictable and targeted support to the least developed countries, as set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action, and the delivery of their commitments, and to consider appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any;

8. *Expresses serious concern* over the fall in the amount of official development assistance to the least developed countries in 2011, and in this regard, calls upon the donor countries to fulfil their commitment of providing 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income to the least developed countries without further delay and to align the allocation of official development assistance to the priorities of the least developed countries with particular focus on developing productive capacity;

9. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to fully and effectively implement the commitments contained in the eight priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action, namely productive capacity, agriculture, food security and rural development, trade, commodities, human and social development, multiple crises and other emerging challenges, mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building, and good governance at all levels, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner;

10. *Invites* all the organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions and international and regional financial institutions, to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action including by implementing scaled-up programmes of financial and technical cooperation, to integrate it into their programmes of work, to participate fully in its review at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, and to include in their annual reports to the executive boards of United Nations system organizations and to the Economic and Social Council the progress made in this regard;

11. *Calls upon* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

12. *Invites* the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

13. *Welcomes with appreciation* the decisions taken by the executive boards of various United Nations system organizations to mainstream the relevant provisions of the Istanbul Programme of Action into the work of the Secretariat and its intergovernmental machinery, and in this regard invites the governing bodies of all other United Nations funds and programmes and multilateral organizations to do the same in an expeditious manner;

14. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to include the issues of concern to the least developed countries in all relevant reports in the economic, social, environmental and related fields in order to ensure follow-up of their development in the broader context of the world economy and contribute to preventing their marginalization while promoting their further integration into the world economy;

15. *Expresses its appreciation* to the organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations that recognize the least developed countries as a vulnerable group of countries and invites those that have not yet done so to use the least developed country category in their work programme and to provide scaled-up and targeted support to them, and in this regard, calls upon the development partners to further take on board least developed country identification criteria in allocating their development assistance;

16. *Underlines* the need to give particular attention to the issues and concerns of the least developed countries in all major United Nations conferences and processes;

17. *Notes* the work being done by the ad hoc working group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for the countries graduating from the least developed country category, and takes note of the report of the working group to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session and its recommendations;[4]

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary to undertake a joint gap and capacity analysis on a priority basis by 2013 with the aim of establishing a technology bank and a mechanism to support science, technology and innovation dedicated to the least developed countries, building on existing international initiatives;

19. *Underlines* the need to take the steps necessary to ensure mutual accountability of the least developed countries and their development partners for delivering their commitments undertaken under the Istanbul Programme of Action;

20. *Reaffirms* its decision to include in its annual ministerial review, in 2015, a review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

21. *Reiterates* that the Development Cooperation Forum should take into consideration the Istanbul Programme of Action when it reviews the trends in international development cooperation, as well as policy coherence for development;

22. *Underlines* that the post-2015 global development agenda should adequately reflect the development priorities of the least developed countries, including those contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action, and in this regard, calls upon developed countries to review their official development assistance commitments made in the Istanbul Programme of Action with a view to further enhancing the resources for the least developed countries, and invites other developing countries, consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action within the framework of South-South cooperation;

[4] A/67/92.

23. *Invites* the relevant United Nations regional commissions and agencies to undertake biennial reviews of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, the first of which to be undertaken in 2013, in close coordination with the global-level and country-level follow-up processes and in cooperation with subregional and regional development banks and intergovernmental organizations;

24. *Calls upon* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute to the Trust Fund in Support of Activities Undertaken by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in a timely manner to support the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action, as well as the participation of representatives from the least developed countries in the annual review meeting on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action by the Economic and Social Council and in other relevant forums, and in this regard, expresses its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2013, under the sub-item entitled "Review and coordination of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020", a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action.